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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/612,324	07/06/2000	James W. Edwards	10559-227001/P8792	7184
20985	7590	12/14/2005	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON, PC P.O. BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			COLIN, CARL G	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2136	
DATE MAILED: 12/14/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/612,324

Applicant(s)

EDWARDS ET AL.

Examiner

Carl Colin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 7-19 and 26-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 7-19, and 26-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 July 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/7/2005 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. In response to communications filed on 10/7/2005, applicant cancels claims 20-25 and amends claims 1, 10, 11, 14, 26, and 29. The following claims 1-3, 7-19, and 26-30 are presented for examination.

2. 1 Applicant's arguments, pages 6-8, filed on 5/23/2005, with respect to the rejection of claims 1 and 11 in view of Richards and Alkhatib have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Richards does not disclose a forwarder/relay service maintaining the second session if the first session is temporary lost. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner asserts that Richards teaches "a nexus that allows client programs to communicate by acting as a central junction where communications are sent and relayed to the appropriate client programs... the nexus forwards communication on the destination's client registered downspout"" (see column 4, line 55 through column 5, line 50); forwarding... and

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relaying information also can be found in column 6, that meets the recitation of forwarder/relay service; Richards also discloses establishing a virtual connection between two computers wherein a session between nexus and one of the computers remains open and even if the other computer connection is lost or interrupted the other computer re-establishes connection (see column 12, lines 25-67). In addition, prior art (Jade et al, applicant's disclosure column 5, lines 2-49) discloses the limitation of "maintaining the second session if the first session is temporarily lost and re-establishing a virtual connection. This limitation is also well known in the art of roaming network when roaming from one network to another. To further support the rejection, maintaining a connection to a destination endpoint when the source roams between network as the connection can be temporary lost is well known and is also disclosed in US Patent 5,564,070 to Want et al. Upon further consideration, a new ground of rejection is made in view of Want et al in combination with the previous references to expedite the prosecution while providing further support. The rejection of the dependent claims not challenged by Applicant still applies in this office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject

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matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.1 **Claims 1-3, 7-9, 10-19** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,754,707 to **Richards et al** in view of US Patent 6,421,732 to **Alkhatib et al** and in view of US Patent 5,564,070 to **Want et al**.

3.2 **As per claims 1, 3, 9, 13, 15, and 18, Richards et al** discloses a method of establishing communications comprising: establishing a virtual connection between a source computer system and located behind a first connectivity barrier and a destination computer system and located behind a second connectivity barrier, for example (see column 11, claim 1 and column 12, claim 14); establishing a first session between the source computer system and a service and establishing a second session between the destination computer system and the service, for example (see column 11, claim 1 and column 12, claim 14). See also column 4, line 55 through column 5, line 50. Richards discloses restoring previously working states from reference states in a transparent way (column 3, lines 42-61). **Richards et al** teaches “a nexus that allows client programs to communicate by acting as a central junction where communications are sent and relayed to the appropriate client programs... the nexus forwards communication on the destination’s client registered downspout” and relaying information (see column 4, line 55 through column 5, line 50 and column 6, lines 10-15 and 35-46) that meets the recitation of forwarder/relay service; **Richards et al** also discloses establishing a virtual connection between two computers wherein a session between nexus and one of the computers remains open and

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even if the other computer connection is lost or interrupted the other computer re-establishes connection (see column 12, lines 25-67). **Richards et al** does not explicitly teach roaming between networks. Roaming between networks is notoriously well known for a wireless to search between networks to reestablish sessions. Maintaining a connection to a destination endpoint when the source roams between network as the connection can be temporary lost is well known in the art as disclosed by **Want et al**. **Want et al** teaches maintaining connections among various computers in a wireless network including mobile computers, and further discloses the importance of maintaining connection even if the connection of the source endpoint is temporarily lost (see prior art, column 3, line 45 through column 4, line 55). See also column 7, lines 15-43. **Want et al** discloses that the application session is maintained even if the session with the mobile is temporarily lost as the mobile re-establishes connection while roaming. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of **Richards et al** to use source computer system as mobile users that can roam between networks and re-establish connection when the connection is temporarily lost while maintaining continuity session with the destination computer as taught by **Want et al** (column 7, lines 15-43) because one of the many advantages is that it permits any type of small device mobile units capable of roaming to use the system while maintaining processing continuity without compromising security (column 4, line 57 through column 5, line 40 and column 6, line 62 through column 7, line 43). One skilled in the art would have been motivated by the suggestions provided by **Want et al** in order to benefit from the advantages as discussed above and to be able to implement the invention with any mobile and stationary computers using various network systems.

Richards et al does not explicitly disclose assigning virtual host name to the computer system. It is known in the art that the packet can contain IP addresses and port numbers or/and domain names. **Alkhatib et al** in an analogous art teaches an IPNet gateway service that can forward and relay connections wherein the destination server is assigned a domain name (column 2, lines 53-60 and figure 1) and the client may have also a domain name (column 6, lines 37-47) so that address translation can be performed. **Alkhatib et al** also discloses the use of gateway as firewall (see column 1, lines 32-33). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of **Richards et al** to include a service that can associate DNS requests with host names because it provides an improved process of addressing source and destination computers based on the requests by performing address translation (column 1, lines 25-40 and column 1, line 60 through column 2, line 7) as taught by **Alkhatib et al**. One skilled in the art would have been motivated by the suggestions provided by **Alkhatib et al** to provide a service that that can forward and relay connections wherein the destination server is assigned a domain name with an improved process of addressing source and destination computers based on the requests by performing address translation.

As per claim 11, Richards et al discloses a method of establishing communications between source and destination computer systems comprising: establishing a session between the source computer system located behind a first connectivity barrier and a service, for example (see column 11, claim 1 and column 12, claim 14); and establishing a transport level communications connection between the service and the destination computer system, the

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destination computer system located behind a second connectivity barrier, for example (see column 11, claim 1 and column 12, claim 14). **Alkhatib et al** discloses maintaining the session between the service and the destination computer system if the session between the source computer system and the service is interrupted as discussed in claim 1. Therefore claim 11 is rejected on the same rationale as the rejection of claim 1.

As per claims 2 and 12, Richards et al discloses the limitation of wherein at least one of the connectivity barriers comprises a firewall, for example (see column 11, claim 1 and column 12, claim 14).

As per claim 14, Richards et al discloses the limitation of including assigning one or more servers associated with the service to handle the sessions, for example (see column 7, lines 27-48).

As per claims 7-8 and 16-17, Alkhatib et al discloses wherein the virtual host names comprise part of a hierarchical naming system, (column 3, lines 53-60) and discloses using a DNS that allows users to search for host names (column 3, line 45 through column 4, line 7) that meets the recitation of providing a directory search application to allow a user to select the virtual host names. Therefore claims 7-8 and 16-17 are rejected on the same rationale as the rejection of claims 1 and 11.

As per claims 10 and 19, Richards et al discloses the limitation of including dynamically assigning at least one server associated with the service to handle the sessions, for example (see column 7, lines 27-48).

4. **Claims 26-28** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,754,707 to **Richards et al** in view of US Patent 6,421,732 to **Alkhatib et al** in view of US Patent 5,564,070 to **Want et al** and in view of US Patent 6,185,606 to **Bereiter**.

4.1 **As per claims 26-28, Richards et al** substantially teaches an article comprising a computer-readable medium including computer-executable instructions for causing a computer system, in response to a request from a first computer system located behind a first connectivity barrier to establish connectivity to a second computer system, for example (see column 11, claim 1 and column 12, claim 14) and further teaches establish a session initiated by the second computer system if the second computer system is located behind a second connectivity barrier, for example (see column 5, lines 1-10). **Richards et al** further discloses establish a direct session with the second computer system if the second computer system is not located behind a connectivity barrier, for example (see column 5, lines 1-10 and column 4, lines 63-67).

Richards et al discloses assign a server to handle a session between the first computer system and a service, for example (see column 7, lines 27-48). **Richards et al** does not explicitly disclose making a determination in response to if the second computer system is located or not behind a connectivity barrier. **Bereiter** in an analogous art teaches a system to establish a session initiated by the second computer system if the second computer system is located behind

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a second connectivity barrier and to instruct the first computer system to establish a direct session or transport level communications connection with the second computer system if the second computer system is not located behind a connectivity barrier to adapt to the available communication path, for example (see column 3, line 40 through column 4, line 23). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of **Richards et al** to establish a session initiated by the second computer system if the second computer system is located behind a second connectivity barrier and to instruct the first computer system to establish a direct session with the second computer system if the second computer system is not located behind a connectivity barrier in order to adapt to the available communication path as taught by **Bereiter**. One skilled in the art would have been motivated by the suggestions provided by **Bereiter** so as to provide the benefit to adapt to the available communication path. Claim 26 recites the limitation of maintaining the session between the service and the destination computer system if the session between the source computer system and the service is interrupted which rejection is discussed in claim 1. Therefore claim 26 is also rejected on the same rationale as the rejection of claim 1.

Claims 29-30 contain the same limitations as claims 23-24 and claims 15-16 above.

Therefore, **claims 29-30** are rejected on the same rationale as the rejection of claims 23-24 and claims 15-16.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carl Colin whose telephone number is 571-272-3862. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 8:00-6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

cc

Carl Colin
Patent Examiner
December 8, 2005

Cel
Primary Examiner
AV2131
12/12/05